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Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Procurement reform: definition of exigency needs

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 54/14 of 29 October 1999, in which the Assembly stated that the definition of exigency as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/52/46, para. 5) appeared too broad to be of any real value in exercising the required control over the use of exigency. The Assembly urged the Secretary-General to submit a sharper and clearer definition of exigency needs to it at its fifty-fourth session through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

II. Sharper and clearer definition of exigency

2. A sharper and clearer definition of exigency has been formulated, taking into consideration three factors: (a) exigency is unavoidable in view of the types of activities undertaken by the Organization, in particular with regard to peacekeeping operations; (b) exigency is essentially a management and not a procurement issue; and (c) the responsibility for managing exigency lies with the head of the substantive department. Accordingly, the head of the substantive department must certify that exigency is genuine and unavoidable.

3. In view of the difficulty of identifying all exigent circumstances that would justify an *ex post facto* approval in the procurement process, the Secretariat feels that it is equally important to define the circumstances in which exigency is not warranted. This is done in the application process, which will be explained in the Procurement Manual.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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III. Conclusion

4. The revised definition of exigency annexed to the present report incorporates all of the above considerations.

Annex

Revised definition of exigency

9.01.02 Exigency

Definition

Exigency shall be defined as "an exceptional compelling and emergent need, not resulting from poor planning or from concerns over the availability of funds, that will lead to serious damage, loss or injury to property or persons if not addressed immediately".